

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-4, 14 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

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1. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A processing method in an apparatus for registering a copyright, comprising the steps of:

receiving a copyright registration request, which is for registering copyright of data, via a network;

in response to the received copyright registration request, transmitting a registration fee request to a device that issued the copyright registration request;

in response to consent to pay the registration fee, embedding an electronic watermark in the data; and

transmitting the data having the embedded electronic watermark to said device.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the copyright registration request includes at least one of a term during which copyright protection of said data is desired, data representing monetary compensation regarding said data, and amount of said data.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein a publication fee applies in a case where said data is published on a Web page.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the publication fee is a fixed rate at start of publication and is decided by number of times said data is distributed data after publication.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the publication fee is a fixed rate at start of publication and is decided by term of publication of said data after publication.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said electronic watermark includes information indicative of a copyrighted article, a code specific to the copyrighted article, and address information of the apparatus which performed the copyright registration.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said electronic watermark is invisible or nearly invisible to the eye.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

storing the data having the embedded electronic watermark;

in response to a distribution request to distribute said data, issuing a compensation request, which requests monetary compensation regarding said data, to a device that issued said distribution request; and

in response to receipt of consent, which is in regard to said compensation request, from said device that issued the distributed request, transmitting said data to said device that issued the distribution request.

Q. 13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein in response to distribution of said data, generation of compensation conforming to said data is notified to the device that issued the copyright registration request corresponding to said data.

14. - 15. (Canceled)

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